

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the January 18, 2012 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Chairman Lyons presided.

Members present: Fredrick J. Bramante, Jr., Helen G. Honorow, Daphne Kenyon, John E. Lyons, Jr., Tom Raffio, John R. Rist, and William Walker. Also in attendance was Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, was unable to attend as Commissioner Barry was attending a conference.

Fredrick Bramante asked for a moment of silence in memory of Thomas Flygare who passed away on January 17, 2012. Mr. Flygare served as the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel for the University of New Hampshire before he entered private practice.

Conditional Approval – Ed 1000, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs – A vote is needed by the Board to adopt the Conditional Approval for Ed 1000, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, to comply with the conditional approval for rule filing 2011-86 approved by the JLCAR. The Conditional Approval is based on annotations to the final proposal as discussed with the JLCAR at their December 15, 2011 public hearing. These annotations are in the material submitted text. Once reviewed by the Office of Legislative Services to determine the rules have been amended in accordance with the Conditional Approval and RSA 541-A:13, V(a), the Board may then adopt the final rule.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education approve the changes to the text of the Final Proposal for Ed 1000, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, in response to the Conditional Approval agreed by JLCAR.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Patricia Butler led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. High School Math Preparation for Colleges and Work Environments Update on Math Taskforce – Math Task Force Report – Paul Leather introduced Christine Downing, Tim Kurtz, Brian Cochrane, Rose Colby and Lori Johnson. Ms. Downing presented a power point presentation. The purpose of this report is to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the New Hampshire State Task Force on Mathematics Instruction, which was convened in mid-July 2011 by the Department of Education upon a charge by the Board. After approximately six months of focused study on the state of mathematics curriculum and instruction in New Hampshire, the Task Force developed 25 recommendations categorized by three areas. These recommendations promote a continuum of mathematics curriculum and instruction that ensures success in mathematics for every student when transitioning from elementary to secondary and post-secondary levels and inspires educators in their task to design and implement authentic mathematical experiences and assessments so that students will effectively understand and apply their mathematical knowledge to new situations. Deputy Commissioner Leather thanked each member of the Task Force for their contributions to this report. Mr. Leather said that a more final report with the Board's comments and other comments will be prepared.

Update on High School Mathematics Common Core Competency Project – Paul Leather introduced Rose Colby and Brian Cochrane who presented a power point presentation. The 2005 New Hampshire School Approval Standards require that students demonstrate mastery of course competencies in order to earn credit for a course at the high school level. Since 2008, when all high schools were required to have course competencies and assessment systems in place, there have been several important developments in competency-based learning and assessment in mathematics. Because course competencies were developed locally by high schools, there was a need to create a tool whereby educators could review the quality of competency statements in all courses. In a project sponsored by the Department and funded by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, a Competency Validation Rubric was developed to guide educators in designing high quality competency statements. During the spring and summer of 2011, two emerging needs in mathematics education arose. Nine high schools in New Hampshire are participating in a federally funded i3 Rural Grant directed by the Center for Secondary School Reform.

The Common Core Standards now in place nationally in Mathematics and English/Language Arts will be the framework for the development of common course competencies and performance assessment rubrics in this project. Complementing this work is that of the New Hampshire State Task Force on Mathematics Instruction.

The charge from the Board to the Task Force is to look at curriculum and instruction in secondary math and make recommendations related to enhancing math instruction that will lead to improved NECAP assessment performance results, especially as it drops from elementary to high school and make recommendations to the field that will help to ensure that all students are prepared to take college math for credit (instead of requiring remedial courses). Brian Cochrane, Assistant Superintendent in the Nashua School District, and Rose Colby, Competency Based Learning and Assessment Specialist for the i3 Grant, led the work on the development of High School Course Competencies based on the Common Core Standards in Mathematics in order to address the curriculum and instruction secondary math goal of the Task Force.

B. Common Core Standards – Daphne Kenyon attended a hearing before the Senate Education Committee. Joseph Miller from the Department put together a panel of people to provide information to the Senators on the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Miller provided an overview. Ms. Kenyon explained the process whereby the Board adopted the Common Core State Standards. Patty Ewen gave the perspective of early childhood education. Superintendent of Schools for SAU #29 Wayne Woolridge gave a district perspective, and three administrators from Campbell High School provided a school perspective.

C. State Board Section on Website – Daphne Kenyon said that there is no news on the website since the last meeting. She would like to see the Dropout Prevention Program that WMUR is involved in on the front page of the website.

D. Credentialing Issues – Fred Bramante said he would like to see the barriers that face non-traditional certification be removed so that it is easier for people to become certified to teach in New Hampshire.

E. “Brain Power” initiative – Fred Bramante said that HB 2475 would be a great resource for the state. He said there is a meeting on Friday regarding this that he would be attending. Mr. Bramante mentioned that the Education Commission of the States had awarded the Frank Newman Innovation Award to the Department of Education.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. NAEP Report – Tim Eccleston said that the release of Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading results for the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often referred to as “the Nation’s Report Card,” given to New Hampshire students last school year confirms the academic achievement of New Hampshire students. For both assessments in both grades, the percentage of New Hampshire students demonstrating Proficiency on the NAEP assessment increased compared to the previous assessment given in 2009. Along with Massachusetts, New Hampshire grade 4 students on average, continue to have the highest performance compared to grade 4 students in all other states and jurisdictions throughout the nation on the NAEP Mathematics assessment. For Reading, New Hampshire grade 4 students retained their standing as one of the top six highest performing states in the nation. Of the six, only Massachusetts had higher achievement that was statistically significant compared to New Hampshire. For grade 8, New Hampshire students were among the top ten highest performing states in the Nation on both the Mathematics and Reading assessments. Only two states – Massachusetts and Minnesota - had higher achievement that was statistically significant compared to New Hampshire on the grade 8 Mathematics assessment. For Reading, only three states – Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey - had higher achievement that was statistically significant compared to New Hampshire’s grade 8 students.

B. Approval of New Charter School Application – The Birches Academy of Academics & Arts: A Public Charter School - This item was withdrawn from the December 14, 2011 meeting. Roberta Tenney spoke of the process each charter school is involved in before it comes before the Board. Roberta Tenney introduced Christie Storniolo, Chair and Founding Parent. There were several other people involved with this charter school who attended the meeting. The Birches Academy of Academics & Arts: A Public Charter School will provide excellence in core academics and the arts while cultivating the individual qualities and strengths of each child. The fundamental aspects of their mission are to provide a rigorous core academic program through integrated curriculum projects, cultivate the individual qualities and strengths of each student, train students to use artistic processes for academic learning, offer comprehensive multi-disciplinary enrichment programs allowing new ways of thinking, behaving and learning, support student achievement by creating an inclusive community that actively engages parents, teachers, and students in the learning process, promote character development and good citizenship, and incorporate the use of technology.

Board members had concerns at the December meeting and progress has been made where they modified the Charter Application, continued dialogue with the Superintendent of Schools of the Salem School District, established draft Bylaws, and refined the Governance & Organizational Structure, enhanced the Curriculum Framework, and continued to engage the community.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Daphne Kenyon, that the State Board of Education authorizes The Birches Academy of Academics & Arts: A Public Charter School application to move forward.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Update on Status of WMUR Recognition Program Re: Dropout Prevention – Paul Leather said that WMUR would like to wait on this recognition program as Debbie has left and they can replace her. The Governor's Office has suggested a subcommittee be formed who would make recommendations to the Board. They would like to have a pool of schools that have made tremendous efforts and some kind of recognition for these efforts. Tom Raffio was appointed to represent the Board on this subcommittee.

MOTION: Helen Honorow made the motion, seconded by John Rist, that the State Board of Education authorize the Department of Education to appoint a subcommittee to make recommendations to the Board on efforts by districts regarding dropouts.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

D. SAU Items – Paul Leather reported on this item.

1. Madison School District Plan for Withdrawal from SAU #13 – Jay McIntire, Superintendent of Schools for SAU #13, and Matt Upton, Attorney, were present. A vote is needed by the Board to approve the Madison School District plan for withdrawal from SAU #13. On December 21, 2011 the Madison School District Withdrawal Committee submitted a Plan to Withdraw from SAU #13. RSA 194-C:2,IV(b) requires a planning committee that is recommending withdrawal to submit a plan for withdrawal to the Board. That law requires that within 60 days, the Board shall review the proposed plan for administrative structure to determine whether or not the proposed plan complies with the requirements of this section and RSA 194-C:4.

A vote to approve the plan sends the plan back to the district where the voters in the Madison School District will vote on its approval.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Daphne Kenyon, that the State Board of Education vote to approve the Madison School District Plan for Withdrawal from SAU #13 for submission to the voters of Madison because it meets the statutory requirements for a withdrawal plan, contingent upon the Department receiving the signature page.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Chairman Lyons suggested Tamworth and Freedom continue to pursue other avenues.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no New Department Business.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Adopted Rule – Ed 1000, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs – A vote is needed by the Board to adopt Ed 1000, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs. The JLCAR reviewed the Final Proposal at their December 15, 2011 meeting and conditionally approved the rule. On January 18, 2012, the Office of Legislative Services received and reviewed the State Board's written response indicating how the final Proposal 2011-86 was amended in response to the conditional approval. The Department has determined that the final proposal has been amended in accordance with the conditional approval and RSA 541-A:13,V(a). Therefore, the Board may now adopt these rules with the annotated editorial changes requested by the staff attorney.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by John Rist, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 1000, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, rule filing notice 2011-86.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS

A. Priorities of State Board

John Rist would like to have items come to the Board earlier so they have time to review them.

B. Education Reform

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

As Commissioner Barry was away, Paul Leather reported on the following items.

1. HB 1360, relative to the rulemaking authority of the State Board of Education. This bill exempts the Board from current rulemaking procedures and requires the Board to submit proposed rules to the House and Senate Education Committees for approval. The NHSAA and NHSBA opposed the bill as written. The Chairman of the House Education Committee made it abundantly clear that his impetus for this bill stemmed from the Board's adoption of the Common Core. This has been heard in the House but no vote yet. Helen said she had submitted written testimony as personal and not as a member of the Board. Mr. Leather said the Department and Board responded on these bills and that the Common Core is not involved in the rulemaking process.

Chairman Lyons has had discussion around these bills with the Senate Education Committee. He said there is real concern on the Board's behalf on these bills and they should be opposed.

2. HB 219, is an oversight committee that oversees JLCAR. NHSBA and NHSAA are supporting this bill because they feel the special education rules go beyond Federal requirements. This is being heard in the House.

Mr. Leather said that the NHSAA and NHSBA supports this bill. Daphne said that Senator Stiles, Senator Forsythe, and Senator Kelly have increased confidence in the Department of Education after the Common Core presentation. Mr. Leather said the House Education Committee operates differently than the Senate Education Committee. Mr. Walker said that during the special education rules process other groups were on board with the Board and Department.

3. HB 1607 and SB 372, establish a tax credit against the state business profits tax for business organizations that contribute to nonprofit organizations that award scholarships to be used by students to defray the educational expenses of attending an independent school. Mike Schwartz has been working with Senator Forysthe on these bills.

4. HB 1566, relative to withdrawal from a school administrative unit or an authorized regional enrollment area school. The position of the Department has not yet been determined.

Helen Honorow said the Department does an extraordinary job and that everyone gave input and we were not overwhelmed.

Bill Walker asked if there is financial impact on duplication of effort with various leaders under HB 1360.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of December 14, 2011 Meeting

MOTION: John Rist made the motion, seconded by Daphne Kenyon, to approve the Minutes of December 14, 2011.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District Amendment to Articles of Agreement – The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board requests State Board approval to place an article on the annual school district warrant of the annual school district meeting in 2012 to amend the cooperative school district's articles of agreement. The amendment would clarify the role of the budget committee as an advisory body to the school board, rather than an autonomous body as provided in RSA 32 and RSA 195:12-a. Historically, the budget committee has operated as an advisory body and this amendment will clarify that role.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by William Walker, that the State Board of Education approve the Amendment to the Articles of Agreement adopted by the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. ConVal Regional Cooperative District Amendments to Articles of Agreement – It is requested that the State Board approve the Amendments to the Articles of Agreement and issue a certificate to provide conclusive evidence of lawful adoption for the Amendments to the Articles of Agreement, which were approved by the voters of the school district at their 2006 annual meeting by the necessary two-thirds vote of those present and voting. The school district has submitted the necessary material to determine that these amendments were lawfully adopted. It now requests that the Board issue its certificate of lawful adoption. The filing of this material occurred after the Department notified the district of the apparent oversight. Issuance of the certificate by the Board will provide the district with conclusive evidence of lawful adoption of the amendments to the ConVal Regional Cooperative School District Articles of Agreement.

MOTION: Helen Honorow made the motion, seconded by Tom Raffio, that the State Board of Education approve the Amendments to the Contoocook Valley Cooperative School District Articles of Agreement that were adopted in 2006 and issue its certificate of lawful adoption to the school district.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Lyons said that this is Daphne's last meeting. The Governor has asked he, Bill Walker, and Fredrick Bramante to stay on through February.

Chairman Lyons introduced Jim Schubert who will be replacing Daphne at the February meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. TABLED ITEMS

There were no Tabled Items at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Daphne Kenyon made the motion, seconded by Tom Raffio, to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Secretary